

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Calling Employers! No-Cost People Power and Mentoring Opportunity Now Available.**

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network's Youth Opportunity Center is recruiting businesses to participate in its new *Pathways to Careers Work Experience Program*, which will provide, at no cost to the business, 200 work-ready youth, ages 14-21.

As part of its annual Hire-A-Youth campaign, the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network will cover the liability and pay the youth's salary while he/she gains work experience in a career sector in which he/she has a genuine interest. Youth can work up to a total of 140 hours, between the months of February and June 2009. Generally, youth will work eight hours-per-week; the participating youth and worksite will determine the actual schedule and the number of hours worked per week.

Deadline to register is Monday, December 1, 2008. Forms are available at [www.hireayouth.com](http://www.hireayouth.com).

"We see the *Pathways to Careers Work Experience Program* as a wonderful no-cost opportunity for businesses to mentor young adults while they gain work experience that will reinforce their academic training and expose them to the various career opportunities that exists within specific industries," said Rick Gonzalez, Youth Opportunity Center Coordinator.

"Many businesses could use extra "people power" to help them manage workloads and to complete some of those special projects that never seem to get done. Currently, we are looking to provide this unique opportunity to more than 200 young people," said Gonzalez.

For more information, interested businesses should visit [www.hireayouth.com](http://www.hireayouth.com); contact Kristen Major, 562.570.4733 or [Kristen\\_Major@longbeach.gov](mailto:Kristen_Major@longbeach.gov); or Lucius Martin at 562.570.4735 or [Lucius\\_Martin@longbeach.gov](mailto:Lucius_Martin@longbeach.gov).

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.

Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To request a reasonable accommodation, please call 562.570.3738 or TTY 562.570.4629, at least 72 hours prior to event.

The **Youth Opportunity Center** assists youth in the Long Beach, Torrance, Lomita and Signal Hill area find education, experience and employment. For more information about services call: 562.570.4700, Toll Free 800.292.7200, TTY 562.570.4629. Visit [www.HireAYouth.com](http://www.HireAYouth.com)

### **Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network**

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network serves businesses and job seekers in the area of Long Beach, Signal Hill, Torrance, Lomita, and San Pedro by providing an array of resources, tools, services and information designed to build a competitive workforce that supports our region's economic growth. For more information, visit [www.PacificGatewayWorkforce.com](http://www.PacificGatewayWorkforce.com) or call 562.570.WORK.

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ADMINISTERED BY:

